



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/665,343

09/18/2003

Megan Anne Diehl

A01341 US-3

7043

21898 7590 03/19/2009
ROHM AND HAAS COMPANY
PATENT DEPARTMENT
100 INDEPENDENCE MALL WEST
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106-2399

EXAMINER

QAZI, SABIHA NAIM

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1612

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/19/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/665,343	Applicant(s) DIEHL ET AL.	
	Examiner Sabiha Qazi	Art Unit 1612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 7-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 and 7-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1612

Non Final Office Action

Claims 1, 3 and 7-15 are pending. No claim is allowed at this time. Amendments are entered. This RCE has been filed after the Board decision on 11/24/2008, where Examiner was affirmed.

Summary of this Office Action March 15, 2009

1. Information Disclosure Statement
2. Copending Applications
3. Specification
4. 35 USC § 103(a) Rejection
5. Response to Remarks and Declaration
6. Communication

Information Disclosure Statement

The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Copending Applications

Applicants must bring to the attention of the examiner, or other Office official involved with the examination of a particular application, information within their knowledge as to other copending United States applications, which are "material to patentability" of the application in question. MPEP 2001.06(b). See *Dayco Products Inc. v. Total Containment Inc.*, 66 USPQ2d 1801 (CA FC 2003).

Specification

The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35

Art Unit: 1612

U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35

U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 3 and 7-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ANTONI-ZIMMERMANN et al.¹ and Applicants disclosure. See the entire document especially abstract of the invention, lines 3-67 in column 2; lines 1-67 in column 3; lines 1-67 in column 4; examples and claims of ANTONI-ZIMMERMANN and Entire specification of the present invention.

ANTONI-ZIMMERMANN teaches the synergistic combination of 2-methylisothiazoline and various other active biocidal substances which embraces Applicant's claimed invention. The biocide composition that is improved in its components interact synergistically and therefore can be used in lower concentrations when used simultaneously, compared to the concentrations necessary in the case of the individual components. Thus, humans and the environment are exposed to less pollution and the costs of controlling harmful microorganisms are reduced. This object is achieved by the invention by means of a biocide composition having at least two active biocidal substances, one of which is 2-methylisothiazolin-3-one. The reference further teaches that biocide

¹ US Patent 6,361,788

Art Unit: 1612

composition of the invention has the advantage that it can replace active substances used until now in practice, but suffering from disadvantages with respect to health and the environment, e.g., 5-chloro-2-methylisothiazolin-3-one (see lines 3-41 in column 2 and lines 33-38 in column 4). Moreover, the biocide composition of the invention can be produced with water as a favorable medium, if necessary. The addition of emulsifiers, organic solvents, and/or stabilizers is thus not necessary. Moreover the invention makes it possible to match the composition to specific goals by adding further active substances, for example, in the sense of an increased biocidal activity, improved long-term protection of the substances infected by microorganisms, improved compatibility with the substances to be protected, or improved toxicological or ecotoxicological behavior (lines 49-54, column 4).

The reference further teaches biocide composition of the invention contains 2-methylisothiazolin-3-one and 1, 2-benzisothiazolin-3-one, normally in a weight ratio of (50-1): (1-50), preferably in a weight ratio of (15-1): (1-8), in particular in a weight ratio of (4-1) (1-4). A weight ratio of 1:1 is particularly preferred. In the biocide composition the 2-methylisothiazolin-3-one and the 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one are present in a total concentration of preferably 0.5 to 50% by wt, in particular 1 to 20% by wt, particularly preferred 2.5 to 10% by wt, in each case relative to the total biocide composition.

Art Unit: 1612

The reference further teaches that the biocide composition of the invention can be used in very different fields. It is suitable, for example, for use in paints, plasters, lignosulfonates, chalk suspensions, adhesives, photochemicals, casein-containing products, starch-containing products, bituminous emulsions, surfactant solutions, motor fuels, cleaning agents, cosmetic products, water circulating systems, polymer dispersions, and cooling lubricants, against attack by, for example, bacteria, filamentous fungi, yeasts, and algae. The reference teaches a list of some active biocidal compounds, which includes presently claimed biocidal compound such as benzyl alcohol, (claim 8), sorbic acid, benzoic acid, phenoxy ethanol, (claim 1) and many others. See column 3 and 4.

Specification discloses that all the compounds are well known biocides, see the entire document especially pages 1 and 2 where it teaches that the compounds are known.

Instant claims differ from the reference in claiming synergistic combination in specific ratios of the components.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to prepare additional beneficial compositions for inhibiting synergistically the growth of microorganisms by using the teachings of the prior art to combine 2-methylisothiazoline and one or two active biocidal component.

Art Unit: 1612

The ratio of the two components to find the synergism is a routine expectation for the one who is skilled in the art because the biocide composition of the reference teaches combination of at least two active biocidal substances, one of which is 2-methylisothiazolin-3-one. The composition can contain one or more other active biocidal substances selected according to the field of application. Specific examples are listed in columns 3 and 4. Present invention does mention only one biocide 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone, however, the term “comprising” allows other components to be added. Other biocides listed in column 3 and 4 include the compounds which are presently claimed. The combination with zinc pyrithione and climbazole is not mentioned specifically in the prior art however, Applicants specification discloses that all the biocides are commercially available. All the compounds are individually known as biocides. The reference teaches the synergistic combination of 2-methylisothiazoline and various other active biocidal substances. Therefore, using 2-methyl-3 isothiazolone for synergism would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time invention was made.

The motivation to prepare synergistic biocidal compositions and method of inhibiting microorganisms as presently claimed has been provided by the prior art.

Art Unit: 1612

The discovery of an optimum value of a result effective variable in a known process is ordinarily within the skill of the art. Synergism is one factor to be considered in the ultimate determination of obviousness of the composition.

The transitional term "comprising", which is synonymous with "including," "containing," or "characterized by," is inclusive or open-ended and does not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps. See, e.g., *Invitrogen Corp. v. Biocrest Mfg., L.P.*, 327 F.3d 1364, 1368, 66 USPQ2d 1631, 1634 (Fed. Cir. 2003) ("The transition 'comprising' in a method claim indicates that the claim is open-ended and allows for additional steps."); *Genentech, Inc. v. Chiron Corp.*, 112 F.3d 495, 501, 42 USPQ2d 1608, 1613 (Fed. Cir. 1997) ("Comprising" is a term of art used in claim language which means that the named elements are essential, but other elements may be added and still form a construct within the scope of the claim.); *Moleculon Research Corp. v. CBS, Inc.*, 793 F.2d 1261, 229 USPQ 805 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *In re Baxter*, 656 F.2d 679, 686, 210 USPQ 795, 803 (CCPA 1981); *Ex parte Davis*, 80 USPQ 448, 450 (Bd. App. 1948) ("comprising" leaves "the claim open for the inclusion of unspecified ingredients even in major amounts").

Art Unit: 1612

See Ex parte Quadranti, 25 USPQ2d 1071 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992) where it was held that “Use of materials in combination, each of which is known to function for intended purpose, is generally held to be prima facie obvious, and in instant case, use of combination of herbicides is so notoriously well known as to be capable of being taken by official notice; generalizations such as Colby formula are not particularly useful in determining whether synergism has been demonstrated, since formula inherently results in expectation of less than additive effect for combination of herbicides, since there is no evidence that such approach is considered valid by significant number of ordinarily skilled workers in relevant area of technology, and since it could be reasonably argued that in most cases, additive or better than additive results could be expected for combination of herbicides.”

“There is no single, appropriate test for determining whether synergism has been demonstrated for chemical combination; rather, facts shown in each case must be analyzed to determine whether chosen method has clearly and convincingly demonstrated existence of synergism or unobvious result”.

“Assuming arguendo that the differences in values presented are statistically significant, there is no evidence that they represent a true, practical advantage. In re Freeman, 474 F.2d 1318, 177 USPQ 139 (CCPA 1973); In re Klosak , 455 F.2d

Art Unit: 1612

1077, 173 USPQ 14 (CCPA 1972); In re D'Ancicco, 439 F.2d 1244, 169 USPQ 303 (CCPA 1971). Also, prescinding from the Colby formula test, which as we have already indicated is at best controversial and in our view probably invalid, there is no evidence that the differences are unexpected. In re Merck, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed.Cir. 1986); In re Longi , 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed.Cir. 1985); In re Freeman, *supra*".

In absence of any criticality and/or unexpected results presently claimed invention would have been *prima facie* obvious to one skilled in the art.

In the light of the forgoing discussion, the Examiner's ultimate legal conclusion is that the subject matter defined by the instant claims would have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Data in the Specification

The data presented in the specification was considered The data presented covers the combination of 2-isothiazole and benzoic acid (Table 1), citric acid (Table 2), sorbic acid (Table 3), 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyclobutane (Table 4), 1,3-dimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantion (Table 5), henoxylethanol (Table 6), zinc pyrithione (Table 7), climbazole (Table 8), and benzyl alcohol (Table 9). The data presented is for certain organisms. Further, the synergistic combinations have been

Art Unit: 1612

taught by the prior art. The synergism as claimed would have been expected for reasons cited above.

Response to Remark and Declaration

Declaration filed on 01.23.2009 by Eileen F. Warwick has been considered. Examiner respectfully disagree that claimed subject matter is not obvious over the disclosure of the references. The question is that whether or not the present invention would have been obvious at the time the invention was filed. Examiner believes that one skilled in the art would have been able to prepare the combinations as claimed because the any skilled in the art would expect that the when two active compounds which are known to have synergic results can combine various ratios, some of them may be synergistic some of them may not be synergistic.. It is an experimental observation and out of testing various combinations at different concentrations one can collect the data in the laboratory. Examiner has shown that the synergistic combination of 2-methylisothiazolin-3-one and various other active biocidal substances is improved in its components interact synergistically and therefore can be used in lower concentrations when used simultaneously, compared to the concentrations necessary in the case of the

Art Unit: 1612

individual components. Thus, humans and the environment are exposed to less pollution and the costs of controlling harmful microorganisms are reduced. This object is achieved by the prior art by means of a biocide composition having at least two active biocidal substances, one of which is 2-methylisothiazolin-3-one. The reference further teaches that biocide composition of the invention has the advantage that it can replace active substances used until now in practice, but suffering from disadvantages with respect to health and the environment, e.g., 5-chloro-2-methylisothiazolin-3-one.

Moreover, Applicant argue that the reference does not disclose combinations comprising 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone and zinc pyrithione, climbazole or citric acid, as recited in claims 7, 8 and 11, respectively. The combination with zinc pyrithione and climbazole is not mentioned specifically in the prior art however, Applicants specification discloses that all the biocides are commercially available. All the compounds are individually known as biocides. The reference teaches the synergistic combination of 2-methylisothiazoline and various other active biocidal substances Therefore, using 2-methyl-3 isothiazolone for synergism would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time invention was made. The transitional term "comprising", which is synonymous with "including," "containing," or "characterized by," is inclusive or open-ended and does not

Art Unit: 1612

exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps. See, e.g., *>Invitrogen Corp. v. Biocrest Mfg., L.P.*, 327 F.3d 1364, 1368, 66 USPQ2d 1631, 1634 (Fed. Cir. 2003) ("The transition 'comprising' in a method claim indicates that the claim is open-ended and allows for additional steps."); *< Genentech, Inc. v. Chiron Corp.*, 112 F.3d 495, 501, 42 USPQ2d 1608, 1613 (Fed. Cir. 1997) ("Comprising" is a term of art used in claim language which means that the named elements are essential, but other elements may be added and still form a construct within the scope of the claim.); *Moleculon Research Corp. v. CBS, Inc.*, 793 F.2d 1261, 229 USPQ 805 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *In re Baxter*, 656 F.2d 679, 686, 210 USPQ 795, 803 (CCPA 1981); *Ex parte Davis*, 80 USPQ 448, 450 (Bd. App. 1948) ("comprising" leaves "the claim open for the inclusion of unspecified ingredients even in major amounts").

In summary Examiner concludes that claims and specification does not provide any new concept or patentable invention for the reasons cited above.

See KSR Supreme Court of United States Decision (Decided April 30, 2007, *KSR INTERNATIONAL CO. v. TELEFLEX INC. et al.* No. 04-1350) where it states that (1) "However, the issue is not whether a person skilled in the art had the motivation to combine the electronic control with an adjustable pedal assembly, but whether a person skilled in the art had the motivation to attach the electronic

Art Unit: 1612

control to the support bracket of pedal assembly”. (2) "the results of ordinary innovation are not the subject of exclusive rights under the patent laws".

See *Ex parte Quadranti*, 25 USPQ2d 1071 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992) where it has been held that “Use of materials in combination, each of which is known to function for intended purpose, is generally held to be *prima facie* obvious, and in instant case, use of combination of herbicides is so notoriously well known as to be capable of being taken by official notice; generalizations such as Colby formula are not particularly useful in determining whether synergism has been demonstrated, since formula inherently results in expectation of less than additive effect for combination of herbicides, since there is no evidence that such approach is considered valid by significant number of ordinarily skilled workers in relevant area of technology, and since it could be reasonably argued that in most cases, additive or better than additive results could be expected for combination of herbicides.”

“There is no single, appropriate test for determining whether synergism has been demonstrated for chemical combination; rather, facts shown in each case must be analyzed to determine whether chosen method has clearly and convincingly demonstrated existence of synergism or unobvious result”.

“Assuming *arguendo* that the differences in values presented are statistically

Art Unit: 1612

significant, there is no evidence that they represent a true, practical advantage. In re Freeman, 474 F.2d 1318, 177 USPQ 139 (CCPA 1973); In re Klosak , 455 F.2d 1077, 173 USPQ 14 (CCPA 1972); In re D'Ancicco, 439 F.2d 1244, 169 USPQ 303 (CCPA 1971). Also, prescinding from the Colby formula test, which as we have already indicated is at best controversial and in our view probably invalid, there is no evidence that the differences are unexpected. In re Merck, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed.Cir. 1986); In re Longi , 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed.Cir. 1985); In re Freeman, supra”.

See KSR Supreme Court of United States Decision (Decided April 30, 2007, KSR INTERNATIONAL CO. v. TELEFLEX INC. et al. No. 04-1350) where it states that (1) “However, the issue is not whether a person skilled in the art had the motivation to combine the electronic control with an adjustable pedal assembly, but whether a person skilled in the art had the motivation to attach the electronic control to the support bracket of pedal assembly”. (2) "the results of ordinary innovation are not the subject of exclusive rights under the patent laws".

In summary Examiner concludes that claims and specification does not provide any new concept or invention for the reasons cited above. To emphasize this point Examiner would like to refer to Applicants to Genetech, 108 F.3d at 1366 and Brenner 383 U.S. 519, 536, 148 USPQ 689, 696 (1966)” which states

Art Unit: 1612

that “a patent is not a hunting license. It is not a reward for research, but a compensation for its successful conclusion” and “patent protection is granted in return for an enabling disclosure of an invention, not for vague limitations of general ideas that may or may not be workable.”

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sabiha Qazi whose telephone number is (571) 272-0622. The examiner can normally be reached on any business day except Wednesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Krass Frederick can be reached on (571) 272-0580. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1612

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sabiha Qazi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1612